CLAIMS

1. The use of the compound hesperidin or of one of its derivatives for the manufacture of a composition designed to stimulate bone formation and/or inhibit bone resorption in man or animals.

2. The use according to Claim 1, characterised in that said composition is a nutritional composition suitable for oral administration.

3. The use according to Claim 2, characterised in that said nutritional composition is designed to stimulate bone formation in young individuals in the growth phase.

4. The use according to Claim 2, characterised in that said nutritional composition is designed to prevent the bone loss which occurs with ageing.

5. The use according to Claim 2, characterised in that said nutritional composition is designed to prevent or treat disorders linked to an imbalance in the relationship between bone formation and bone resorption.

6. The use according to Claim 2, characterised in that said nutritional composition is designed to treat a bone deficit resulting from a fracture.

7. the use according to Claim 6, characterised in that said nutritional composition is designed to prevent or treat diseases selected from osteoporosis, Paget's disease, bone loss or osteolysis observed close to a prosthesis, metastatic bone diseases, hypercalcemia due to a cancer, multiple myelomas, periodontal diseases or osteoarthritis.

8. The use according to one of the Claims 2 to 7, characterised in that said nutritional composition is available in the form of drinks, including juices, preferably fruit juices, yoghurts, ice creams, cheeses, baked products such as bread, biscuits and cakes, dairy products, desserts, confectionery products, cereal bars, breakfast cereals, food seasoning products, fruit salads or stewed fruit.

9. The use according to one of the Claims 2 to 7, characterised in that said nutritional composition is available in the form of a product designed for animal feed, in a wet, semi-wet or dry form.

10. The use according to one of the Claims 2 to 9, characterised in that the compound hesperidin or one of its derivatives is available in the

form of an extraction product obtained from the peel or the pulp of a citrus fruit.

11. The use according to one of the Claims 2 to 10, characterised in that said nutritional compound is adapted for oral administration of a daily quantity included between 0.01 and 500 mg of the compound hesperidin or of one of its derivatives.

12. Nutritional composition to stimulate bone formation and /or inhibit bone resorption, characterised in that it comprises, as active nutritional ingredient, the compound hesperidin or one of its derivatives.

13. The use according to Claim 1, characterised in that said composition is a human pharmaceutical or veterinary composition.

14. The use according to Claim 13, characterised in that said pharmaceutical composition is designed to stimulate bone formation in the young individual in the growth phase.

15. The use according to Claim 13, characterised in that said pharmaceutical composition is designed to prevent the bone loss which occurs in the course of ageing.

16. The use according to Claim 13, characterised in that said pharmaceutical composition is designed to prevent or treat a disease linked to an imbalance in the relationship between bone formation and bone resorption.

17. The use according to Claim 13, characterised in that said pharmaceutical composition is designed to treat a bone deficit resulting from a fracture.

18. The use according to Claim 13, characterised in that said composition is designed to prevent or treat a disease selected from osteoporosis, Paget's disease, bone loss or the osteolysis observed close to a prosthesis, metastatic bone diseases, the hypercalcemia due to a cancer, multiple myelomas, periodontal diseases or osteoarthritis.

19. The use according to one of the Claims 13 to 18, characterised in that said pharmaceutical composition is available in a form for oral, parenteral or intravenous administration.

20. The use according to one of the Claims 13 to 18, characterised in that the pharmaceutical composition is suitable for an oral

administration of a daily quantity included between 0.01 and 500 mg of the compound hesperidin or of one of its derivatives.